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GEN. FREDERICK FUNSTON MACABE BE GRAY UNIT

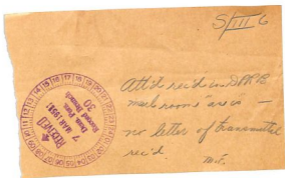
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HEADQUARTERS
GENERAL FREDERICK FUNSTON MACABEBE GUERRILLA UNIT
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HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF THE
GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES OF
GEN. FREDERICK FUNSTON GUERRILLAS

I. EARLY STAGE

The General Frederick Funston Macabebe Guerrilla Unit came into existence as early as February, 1942, at Caloccan, Rizal, under the sponsorship of Police Sergeant Gregorio M. Flores, then a desk sergeant of the Traffic Division, Manila Police Department. Being a veteran of the United States Army during the First World War and honorably discharged as a Sergeant Personnel Clerk at the end of that war and because of his extensive experience in handling men, he was induced to organize the Unit, not for purposes of remuneration, but to help the people in their hour of bitterness caused by shock, fear and confusion of mind as a result of the violence and destruction wrought by the enemy.

Being an active member of the Manila Police Department he could not perform his underground task without assistance. He therefore broached his idea and plan to Segundo Landicho, Bernardo H. Alfonso and Calixto N. Villanueva. The four of them worked together and recruited members for the Unit to cover the Greater Manila City Area. Because of the sincere efforts and able leadership of these organizers the response by patriotic elements was great and it did not take long to expand the organization. Segundo Landicho was a former Sergeant Major in the United States Army, a federalized Captain of the Philippine National Guards, and a Captain in the US Army, Infantry Reserve, from 1924 to the outbreak of the Second World War. Bernardo H. Alfonso was an honorably discharged First Sergeant of the United States Army in the First World War. Calixto N. Villanueva, while not an ex-serviceman, had all the qualities of a good soldier and as a matter of fact always inclined to the Army. He was one of the organizers of the National Volunteers of the Philippines in 1932 and has been holding the rank of Lt. Colonel of that organization since that time.

So early in March, 1942, "A" and "B" companies began to be formed out of war veterans, ROTC cadets and close relatives of veterans and their friends. Original elements of these companies operated in the Greater Manila sector and suburbs, their first duties being to help and guide the people on how to adjust themselves under enemy occupation so that further infliction of injuries by the ruthless invaders may be avoided. Passions were running high and a big portion of the population wanted to stage an uprising. The people were finally prevailed upon and as a result the atrocities by the occupation forces gradually diminished. Later on only those who were suspected and found not cooperative with the Japanese were arrested and taken to Fort Santiago and other places of concentration. By the middle of March, 1942, however, combat platoons were formed and their first targets of operation were the Manila Railroad Station, the Caloccan Station and storehouses and bodegas belonging to that company which are under Japanese control. The

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members of these outfits destroyed engines, motor buses, and coaches, and cut rails to derail trains and burned military equipment. At Caloccan there were many bodegas and storehouses with plenty of foodstuffs, oil, gasoline, petroleum and office equipment. The boys salvaged some of these materials and burned those that could not be taken away. In these attempts one officer and one enlisted man were arrested and killed by the Japanese soldiers.

When Sgt Gregorio M. Flores was relieved as Desk Sergeant towards the end of February, 1942, that was his real chance to leave his post occasionally and contact the boys. He made various absences without leave but was never reported due to a previous understanding with his fellow officers who knew of his underground activities. Finally on 1 April 1942 he left for Macabebe, Pampanga, in the company of Segundo Landicho, Bernardo H. Alfonso, Calixto N. Villanueva and Gregorio R. Sunga. They boarded a motored banca propelled by a shore-power Iver Johnson engine which left Bankusay beach in Tondo at 1:00 in the morning of that date, arriving at Barrio Vitas, Macabebe, Pampanga, at 12:00 noon the following day. Upon reaching shore, they crossed to San Gabriel by trail arriving there at 4:00 in the afternoon. Immediately they held a conference with Alfredo Balingit, Servillano T. Viray, Venerando A. Cruz, Sisto Dixon, Gregorio Quintu, Quintin Mendiola and several others who attended. A series of conferences followed this until an agreement was reached to form ~~companies~~ companies which included ~~the~~ companies then operating in the Greater Manila City Area. The Unit as an intelligence and striking force was therefore officially born on 21 April 1942 with the formal induction of companies "A", "B", "C", "D" and the Staff Detachments. The Unit gradually grew in number by picking up men of unquestionable loyalty from the different sectors of operation.

II. OPERATIONS OF THE MANILA DETACHMENT

Companies "A" and "B" continued operations in the Manila Area after its induction. Sometime in the middle of May, 1942, Capt. Antonino G. Viray, Lt. Gregorio R. Sunga and the commanding officer, Lt. Col. Gregorio M. Flores, were strolling along Madrid Street in Manila when they came across a group of dirtily clad men who told them of a bodega on Jaboneros Street which was loaded with commandeered rice, dried fish, canned goods, gasoline, petroleum and hundreds of bales of clothing materials. Upon learning this they proceeded to the bodega and found that it was guarded only by two Japanese marines. Although Capt. Viray believed that they could subdue the two guards and get their rifles, they did not proceed with the scheme for fear of the consequences. Capt. Viray, however, went home to change clothes and went back to plot the burning of the bodega. He first lured the guard at the gate into drinking gin since the other guard was inside the bodega then. When the guard became somewhat drunk, Capt. Viray saw his opportunity and, without losing time, clubbed him to unconsciousness. Capt. Viray then set the contents of the building into fire and from all indications the other guard inside was caught in the flames.

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When the building was a flame, the people saw their opportunity and they started carting away what goods and materials they could lay their hands on, but the arrival of some Japanese soldiers dispersed the crowd. Capt. Viray scampered away but was overtaken in his flight when he tripped on the railroad tracks due to exhaustion. Three Japanese soldiers caught him and were about to take him away but the big crowd closed in on the Japs in a threatening manner. Sensing danger, the Japs left Capt. Viray who was wounded and some friends took him to the house of Lt. Col. Flores at 713 Bankassy, Tondo, where the Colonel was living at the time.

During the latter part of November, 1942, while doing sabotage work with five of his men on Japanese military installations at the Tutuban Station, Capt. Viray was arrested by the Kempei and was mercilessly beaten. Later on he was hanged by his arms which were tied behind his back. It was in this position when he was found two days after his arrest by a group of our boys personally led by Lt. Col. Flores. Since there seemed to be no way of getting him out of that place, which was the Air Port Studio, Lt. Col. Flores thought of a very funny trick which unexpectedly gave them a break. He ordered the boys to get three big firecrackers and an empty salmon can. The firecrackers were tied together and placed inside the salmon can which they filled with sand. They lit the firecrackers and threw the can inside the Air Port Studio causing a loud detonation which ^{gave Lt. Col. Flores} ~~deceived~~ the Japs. ^{the opportunity to grab and} ~~The Japs~~ ^{and the boys} ~~were hanging like a dead duck.~~ ^{they first} ~~They first~~ took him to the Meisic Police Station and later transferred him to a safe place where it took him three months to recuperate.

When it became too "hot" for the boys of companies "A" and "B" to continue with their work of espionage, propaganda and sabotage of military installations in the Manila Area, the Commanding Officer decided to terminate operations in that sector and prepared to move the Manila Detachment up North to Pampanga. So on 1 April 1943, Lt. Col. Gregorio W. Flores with 180 officers and men started moving up in small groups -- destination San Fernando, Pampanga, the assembly point. The transfer of the Manila Detachment to Pampanga was not without dangers and hardships. The boys stole rides in freight trains and cargo trucks and every available means of transportation. By 3 April 1943 companies "A" and "B" were regrouped in San Fernando and they proceeded to Sta. Cruz, Lubao, and from there went to Barrios Santiago and Calabass camping there about three days later. These companies stayed in that area up to about the middle of September 1943 when some 50 fully armed Japanese troops arrived at the scene and nearly captured our men were it not for the alertness of Pedro Diosa of the Medical Detachment who happened upon the Japanese troops, ^{he ran to warn the men who were then eating} ~~and not closely guarded.~~ ^{Upon seeing the} ~~Diosa who was an elder man, could not~~ ^{catch up with the pace of his younger comrades who were then} ~~fleeing the enemy as fast as they could.~~ ^{He was captured and} ~~tortured severely and later on urged to dig his own grave.~~

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A platoon of "A" Company which was able to secure additional arms returned for the purpose of rescuing Diwa from certain death. The platoon engaged the Japanese outfit killing several of them and finally rescuing Diwa who was to have been liquidated in cold blood like the rest of the victims of Japanese brutality. The boys made their speedy getaway and rejoined the other members and they all proceeded to San Miguel which was an outlying district. The rainy season was beginning to tell on the men and the heavy downpour rendered them practically immobile. Companies "A" and "B" therefore encamped at San Miguel until the early part of March, 1944.

In March, 1944, the Detachment moved to Luscan, Dinalupihan, Bataan, and about the middle of that month they encountered a group of foraging Japanese soldiers of about 40 members. The boys struck at them so fiercely and hard that 31 Japs were left dead while the rest escaped. 30 rifles and ammunition were captured and some of the boys were able to exchange their worn out shoes with those of the dead Japs. 1st Lt Nicolas Mendoza was injured in this encounter. Lt Mendoza insisted that he stay behind because he did not want to retard our activities. That was the last time he was seen alive. His wife and children are however pensioners since he was a former 2nd Lt in the 26th Cavalry Division, US Army. After that incident companies "A" and "B" moved up to Abucay, Bataan, and stayed there up to about 15 October 1944. Towards the end of October, 1944, the outfit arrived there early in December, 1944. In Tarlac the outfit got the shortwave news of a hint that the US Army will make a landing somewhere in Northern Luzon so that on 8 December 1944, the Detachment made a hurried move to La Paz, Umingan, Pangasinan, arriving there on 2 January 1945. It was in La Paz, Umingan, where the Manila Detachment joined the Macabebe Detachment before proceeding to Lingayon.

III. OPERATIONS OF THE MACABEBE DETACHMENT

Upon the inception of companies "C" and "D" they immediately went into action engaging in espionage, propaganda and sabotage of military installations and materiel. On 11 September 1942, at Barrio Nabong along the Danga River, Macabebe, Pampanga, elements of these companies spotted some 60 Japanese soldiers loaded in 10 big bancas full of confiscated rice. The boys who numbered about 80 fired at the enemy in an ambush killing 40 of the Japs, and capsizing their bancas. The others made and their escape. In this encounter, 28 rifles with plenty of amm. were captured. The boys made a speedy getaway and proceeded to Barrio Sta. Rita, Macabebe, where they rested up to about the middle of December, 1942. By the middle of December, 1942, companies "C" and "D" moved to Barrio Saplad, also Macabebe, to watch for Japanese troops who were then regularly confiscating rice from Lubao and Saxon, Pampanga, and carrying it by means of bancas towards Macabebe. On 20 February 1943, the boys sighted a fleet of about 80 big bancas, the biggest fleet encounter by the Unit, loaded with rice and convoyed by about 100 Japanese soldiers. The boys who were well entrenched and well equipped, opened up with everything they had thus killing 30 of the enemy and capsizing many bancas without any casualty on our side.

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Immediately after this incident, the Detachment left Barrio Saplad during the night and by means of bancas which they seized roved up to Sta. Rosa, Balanga, Bataan. These men are being led by former non-commissioned officers of the Philippine Scouts who were well trained in jungle fighting against the Moros. This accounted for the slight casualties we suffered in encounters with the enemy. Sta. Rosa was a quiet camp and the boys stayed there up to about the middle of May, 1943. By the middle of May, 1943, companies "C" and "D" left Sta. Rosa and moved to Balangao, Pangasinan, arriving there about the middle of June, 1943. The men of "C" and "D" companies stayed in Pangasinan for quiet a time but refrained from engaging the enemy because Governor Estrada of Pangasinan then cautioned our men not to attempt fighting the Japanese troops because the localities are thickly populated and might cause unnecessary loss of lives to non-combatant civilians. Pangasinan province had many guerrilla outfits but it was a quiet haven for the boys. It may not be amiss to state that one vital factor which limits or prevents any guerrilla organization during the occupation from striking at the enemy anywhere and at any time was the concern for the welfare of the civilian population who suffer the consequences. The Japanese are ruthless and by nature cruel. They would not hesitate to kill civilians, helpless and unarmed, in retaliation for the killing of their troops by our underground fighters.

Governor Estrada was ~~one of~~ those good officials during the occupation who had a great regard for the welfare of his constituents. While looking after the welfare of the people of his province, he was also solicitous of the protection of the lives of those guerrillas roaming about in Pangasinan. He would warn our boys of the coming of Japanese troops on maneuver mission in that area, and would direct them to other places of safety. He also used to supply the guerrillas with foodstuffs, some equipment, medicine or clothing. This situation in Pangasinan prevented our boys of "C" and "D" companies to intensify their active campaign against the enemy. While lying low, however, they continued their espionage, propaganda and occasional sabotage of Japanese military installations and material. However, on 18 October 1944 our boys who were on reconnaissance mission came across a group of 8 Japanese soldiers who were arresting and mistreating men and women in Barrio La Paz, Umingan, for their refusal to give out information on the whereabouts of the guerrillas. They subjected the people to the water cure and all sorts of indignities. Our boys who numbered about 60 saw a good opportunity to eliminate these terrors of the barrio. The boys made short work of the 8 Japs and captured all their rifles and ammunition. The people of the vicinity were however evacuated to another place in Umingan. This was the last incident against Japanese troops by the Macabebe Detachment before they joined the Manila Detachment at La Paz, Umingan, on 2 January 1945.

IV. COMBINED OPERATIONS

By that time, 2 January 1945, news was coming in fast and the serial activities of US Army planes which first showed in Luzon on 21 and 22 September 1944 had increased in tempo. These were indications that the landing at Leyte was true and that

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Uncle Sam's forces were just around the corner. So on 3 January, 1945, the Unit as a whole moved up North in the direction of Lingayen keeping as much as possible towards the coast in order to be of assistance to any landings that might be made on the beach. The Unit arrived in Lingayen by midnight of 8 January 1945 and on the 9th the US Army landed at Sewal Bay, Pangasinan. On 11 January 1945, Lt. Col. Gregorio M. Flores and battalion staff officers called on Colonel (now General) Courtney Whitney of Gen. MacArthur's headquarters. He was informed of this Unit and told that it was officered mostly by former non-commissioned officers of the USAFFE and he promptly advised that they report to their respective commands. He ordered the supply officers to furnish us with boxes of canned foodstuffs, clothing and medicine.

From 11 January 1945 many of the officers and men of the Unit began obtaining work in different Army camps. Lt. Col. Flores who wanted to come to Manila left the command of the Unit to Capt. Ambrosio Barrientos on 13 January 1945. Lt. Col. Flores joined the First Cavalry Division at Meycauayan, Bulacan, on 3 February 1945 and arrived in his home at Calococan, Rizal, in the afternoon of that date. Once he found that his family was safe, he went back to Umingan where Unit was based only to find that the Unit had been attached to the 161st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. (See attached papers by Capt. Robert J. Hilles, O-1074126, Company Commander, "C" Company, 161st Infantry Regiment). The Unit ~~stayed~~ attached to this organization from the ~~start~~ week of February throughout the ~~operation~~ which included Ipo Dam, Antipolo, Nueva ~~Ecija~~, and others, and finished at the completion of the operations of the Battle of Balate Pass (now Balton) on 28 June 1945.

On 18 February 1945, elements of the Unit were temporarily attached to "B" Troop, 2nd Brigade, 8th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, APO 201. "B" Troop was commanded by 1st Lt (later Captain) David H. Grant, O-1056221. (See attached papers, Exhibit B). Lt. Col. Flores kept in touch with the boys in "B" Troop while they were operating in the vicinity, and upon the completion of the Antipolo, Rizal, campaign about the middle of March, 1945, the boys rejoined him at the 25th Infantry Division command post in the Province of Laguna to begin the campaign for the North. The Unit was ordered back to Manila on 28 June 1945 where the duties of the boys consisted principally of interior guard duty at United States Army installations. In view, however, of the depletion of the ranks by the return of many boys to their pre-war employment, Lt. Col. Flores and the other organizers decided to make 31 August 1945 as the official date of the termination of the existence of the Unit.

Upon 31 December 1945, the order for general demobilization was given (Presidential Order No. 83) and was followed accordingly by the Unit.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Gregorio M. Flores
GREGORIO M. FLORES
Lt. Col., Infantry
Commanding Officer

A. S. Tanjutco
AVELINO S. TANJUTCO
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

Attachments: Two (2)

1. Exh. A - Certification of Capt. Hilles
2. Exh. B - Certification of Lt. Grant

Gen. Frederick Funston
Macabebe Guerrilla Unit
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Philippines



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